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Message Text

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40
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W
---------- 105751
R 301045Z SEP 73
FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3209
INFO AMEMBASSY BANVKOK
AMEMBASSY SAIGON
COMUSSAG
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 10511

EXDIS

DEPT PLEASE PASS SECDEF AND CJCS

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI, CB
SUBJECT: MANPOWER FOR FANK

REF: PHNOM PENH 10325/260716Z SEP 73

1. OUR MANPOWER PROPOSALS ARE AT LAST GETTING SOME ACTION OUT OF THE KHMER GOVERNMENT. THE RESPONSE IS NOT RPT NOW WHAT WE ASKED FOR; BUT IT IS PROGRESS.

2. BY WEEK'S END IT HAD BECOME QUITE CLEAR THAT LON NOL AND GENERALS SOSTHENE FERNANDEZ, THONG VAN FAN MUONG AND HOU HANG SIN ALL REGARD THE APPOINTMENT OF LTGEN SAUKAM KHOY TO THE DRAFT JOB AS THREATENING TO ESTABLISHED MILITARY RELATIONSHIPS AND HIERACHIES. EACH OF THESE MEN HAS SPOKEN TO US WITH EMOTION ON THE SUBJECT.

3. TO HEAD OFF THE KHOY APPOINTMENT, LON NOL AND MINISTERS MAJ GEN THAPPANA NGINN (PUBLIC WORKS AND INTERIOR DEFENSE) AND HEM KETH SANA (INTERIOR) WORKED LATE THE NIGHTS OF SEPTEMBER 27 AND 28 ON A NEW PLAN. ON SEPTEMBER 29 LON NOL TRIUMPHANTLY ANNOUNCED TO ME THAT CONFIDENTIAL

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HE HAD SOLVED THE CONSCRIPTION PROBLEM, GIVEN ORDERS TO DRAFT 25,000 MEN, AND THAT WE ALL COULD RELAX.

4. LON NOL'S PLAN IS A 2-PAGE DOCUMENT INSTRUCTING

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THE GENERAL MOBILIZATION APPARATUS AND ALL LOCAL OFFICIALS
TO POST LISTS OF NAMES AND CALL UP DRAFT-ELIGIBLE MEN.
MAIN NEW ELEMENT IN THE DOCUMENT (AND THIS IS VITAL)
IS THAT IT SPECIFIES THAT ALL MEN AGED 18 TO 35 ARE ELIGIBLE,
UNLESS THEY COME UNDER ONE OF THE EXEMPTIONS SPELLED OUT
IN THE LAW. ONE USEFUL WRINKLE IS A 5000 RIEL BOUNTY
TO STUDENTS WHO VOLUNTEER. LON NOL SAID THAT IN TAM HAD
CLEARED THE DOCUMENT, AS I SUBSEQUENTLY VERIFIED, AND THAT
ORDERS WERE ALREADY GOING OUT TO EXECUTE IT.

5. WE TOLD LON NOL THAT WE HAVE NO RPT NO CONFIDENCE IN
A HASTILY THROWN TOGETHER EXERCISE OF THIS TYPE. HE
HAS GIVEN HUNDREDS OF ORDERS TO GENERAL MOBILIZATION;
GENERALLY OBTAINING ONLY A TOKEN RESPONSE. THE GKR
HAD BLOWN ITS FIRST CRACK AT CONSCRIPTION THIS SUMMER
BY GOING OFF HALF-COCKED WITH NO FOLLOW-THROUGH ORGANI-
ZATION; IT CANNOT AFFORD THE LUXURY OF ANOTHER FAILURE.
WE REMINDED LON NOL THAT THE US IS NOT PREPARED TO
PROVIDE INCREASED ARMS IF THE FANK DOES NOT HAVE THE
SOLDIERS TO CARRY THEM.

6. AFTER SOME DISCUSSION LON NOL AND I AGREED:

(A) TO DELAY EXECUTION OFHIS PLAN FOR TWO WEEKS
TO GIVE TIME TO CONTACT LOCAL OFFICIALS AND PREPARE
THEM FOR THE JOB, TO PREPARE A PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN,
WITH PARTICIPATION BY THE HIGH POLITICAL COUNCIL AND
GOVERNMENT, AND TO WORK OUT EFFECTIVE SANCTIONS.

(B) TO ASK THE CABINET TO PASS IMMEDIATELY THE
FREE RICE AUTHORIZATIONFOR THE GENERAL RESERVE, AND
TO PUBLICIZE IT AND THE INTERVENTION PREMIUMS AS
INDUCEMENTS.

(C) TO HAVE THE EMBASSY TEAM WORK WITH THAPPANA
NGINN AS INTERIM DEFENSE MINISTER ON THE DETIALS.

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7. CHMEDTC AND POL/MIL COUNSELOR CALLED ON THAPPANA NGINN
THIS MORNING AND FOUND HIM ALREADY SEIZED WITH HIS NEW
RESPONSIBILITIES ALTHOUGH SOMEWHAT UNCERTAIN OF HIS
ABILITY TO COMMAND THE COOPERATION OF OTHER MINISTRIES
AND TO OBTAIN FUNDS FOR FREE RICE ALLOTMENT. (HE WAS
REASSURED ON BOTH POINTS.) HE HAS ORDERED HIS FORMER
AIDES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE TO DUST OFF PLANS FOR
PUBLICIZING AND EXECUTING CONSCRIPTION WHICH WERE PREPARED
WHEN HE HEADED THE MINISTRY, IS PREPARING A DRAFT SPEECH
WITH WHICH THE PRESIDENT IS TO OPEN THE CONSCRIPTION
CAMPAIGN, AND WILL MEET WITH MILITARY AIDES TOMORROW TO
BEGIN PLANNING. THAPPANA NGINN INDICATED AN INTENTION
TO ESTABLISH QUICKLY REGIONAL QUOTAS WHICH ARE TO BE

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FILLED STARTING WITH THE YOUNGEST AGE GROUPS FIRST.

8. CHMEDTC AND POL/MIL COUNSELOR LEFT WITH THAPPANA NGINN A PAPER OUTLINING THE MISSION'S PRELIMINARY THINKING, WHICH HE IS TO DISCUSS WITH HIS STAFF TOMORROW MORNING (OCTOBER 1) AND AGAIN WITH US TOMORROW EVENING. IN ADDITION TO THE POINTS ALREADY MADE TO LON LON, WE RECOMMENDED:

A. THAT THAPPANA NGINN IMMEDIATELY ASSEMBLY A HIGHLY QUALIFIED STAFF TO DRAW UP AND IMPLEMENT PUBLICITY, TRAINING AND EXECUTION PROGRAMS,

B. A THREE-PRONGED PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN CONSISTING OF (1) GENERAL SPEECHES ON THE NEED FOR MORE MANPOWER AND SUPPORT FOR CONSCRIPTION BY THE MARSHAL, THE HIGH POLITICAL COUNCIL, MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT AND CHIEFS OF THE RELIGIOUS ORDERS, (2) RECRUITMENT PUBLICITY BY POLITICAL WARFARE DIRECTORATE AND MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND (3) PUBLIC EXPLANATION OF THE CONSCRIPTION PROCESS AND CLEAR WARINING OF THE GOVERNMENT'S DETERMINATION TO DETECT AND PUNISH THOSE EVADING DRAFT OR HELPING OTHERS TO DO SO BY SELLING FALSE DOCUMENTATION.

C. SHORT INSTRUCTIONAL COURSES FOR LOCAL OFFICIALS PARTICIPATINV IN CONSCRIPTION PROCESS AND DETAILED ORDERS OUTLINING THE ROLE OF NATIONAL GENDARMERIE AND OTHER SECURITY AGENCIES.
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9. COMMENT: THE QUESTION IN ALL OF THIS IS WHETHER JOURNEYMEN THAPPANA NGINN AND HEM KETH SANA AND THEIR LANGUID MINISTRIES HAVE THE DRIVE AND THE FOLLOW-THROUGH TO PUT THE DRAFT ACROSS. LON NOL'S PAPER HAS ALL THE MARKS OF THOSE INCANTATIONS AT WHICH HE IS SO ADEPT, DESIGNED TO MAKE PROBLEMS GO AWAY RATHER THAN TO SOLVE THEM. BUT IT CAN PROVIDE A FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION, AND WE WILL TRY TO MAKE IT STICK.
ENDERS

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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